

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE

May 1, 2003

Meeting held at:

Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing address is:

Balboa Park Administration
2125 Park Boulevard MS39
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Absent

Laurie Burgett
Darlene Davies (Departed 7:35)
Vicki Granowitz
Jeffrey Kirsch
Dan Mazzella
Nancy Rodriguez
Paul Rucci
Joe Silverman
Jeffery Tom

Members Absent

Warren Simon (ex)
Michael Stepner (ex)

Staff Present

Michael Behan
DeVere Brasted
Charlie Daniels
Kathleen Hasenauer

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mazzella called the meeting to order at 6:37 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 6, 2003 MEETING AS AMENDED. (GRANOWITZ/RUCCI 8-0)

Jeffery Kirsch requested that his comments regarding the Committee Member Reports be changed to read: "... but concerned about the organizer's approach to the alternate date issues."

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Sharon Chapin, an original member of the Working Group, stated that she did not receive adequate notice of the April 3 Balboa Park Parking, Circulation and Land Use Study Public Forum. She was concerned that others may not have received sufficient notice and requested assurance that this would not recur.

Bill Dotson, also an original member of the Working Group, was unable to attend the April 3 Public Forum. He voiced his concerns that transit and parking issues be addressed, and that solutions be identified.

Juli Peters Hyde, an ex-officio member of the Working Group, attended the April 3 Public Forum. Her desire is to see Balboa Park preserved for future generations. She expressed concern that the San Diego Zoo is proceeding with their project.

Donna Damson, representing the San Diego Zoo, referenced October 16, 2002, correspondence sent to Chairperson Dan Mazzella from Douglas G. Myers, Executive Director of the Zoological Society of San Diego. He had requested that the Balboa Park Committee form a Sub-Committee to focus on the Park Boulevard Promenade project. To date, a response has not yet been received. Donna thanked Michael Stepner and Laurie Burgett for making an attempt to meet with Zoological Society staff. Their staff is hopeful that the EIR will be available for public review and comment this summer.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Dan Mazzella announced that the Park and Recreation Board will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, May 8 from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M., at the War Memorial Building. The Ethics training for the Balboa Park Committee was cancelled.

STAFF REPORT

1. Michael Behan encouraged everyone to attend the May 8 Park and Recreation Board Meeting. The City Manager will present the FY 2004 Budget to the City Council on Monday, May 5. Revenue shortfalls and resultant negative impacts to Department budgets are expected. The proposed budget for Developed Regional Parks Division reflects a significant reduction.
2. Div Brasted stated that the work on the Rose Garden Rehabilitation project should be completed by July 1. Staff will soon review plans for the West Arcade.
3. Kathleen Hasenauer announced that the staff is not scheduling any new special events between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Monday, May 26, is a City Holiday in observance of Memorial Day.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

1. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

301. Committee Discussion of the Grape Street Dog-Off Leash Area Design Concepts being discussed by the Consultant and City staff
Charlie Daniels of Park Planning and Dennis Otsuji of ONA requested input to three proposed alternatives for Grape Street Park. Each conceptual design considered integration of the total park, passive, recreation and off-leash activities. The goal of the designs is to retain the openness of the park, ensure accessibility, protection of native plant material, and in two of the designs create an observation area. Cost to implement any of the designs is comparatively equal. The two designs with the observation areas would be slightly more expensive. DG paths, a minimum of 4' wide, lodge pole fencing, adherence to ADA requirements and landscaping to Balboa Park standards are inherent in each of the designs.

The designs will be reviewed by the Land Use Sub-Committee who will solicit community involvement and comments. More detailed information is available from ONA.

INFORMATION ITEMS

401. Parking, Land Use and Circulation Update from Jones and Jones
Jones and Jones and Charlie Daniels of Park Planning highlighted the study to date. The consultants have met with numerous groups and individuals representing institutions, stakeholders, planning groups, residents and community members. It was felt that the first Public Forum on April 3, attended by approximately one hundred-fifty persons was successful. Post cards have been mailed to the attendees as well as other in the data base. Surveys of park visitors were conducted from April 24 through April 27. The consultants are in the process of synthesizing the information. Interested persons are encouraged to access the web site. Their intent is to return in June and present their findings, such as common themes, conflicts and opportunities. They plan to have a series of three charrettes. The second Public Forum will occur on July 10, and once again will be announced with a Public Notice.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

501. Land Use - Chairperson Laurie Burgett hopes to meet the second or third week of the month to comply with noticing requirements for the Balboa Park Committee.
502. Strategic Planning - No report was provided as Chairperson Michael Stepner had an AIA Conference commitment.
503. Policies and Operations - Chairperson Nancy Rodriguez stated that it is her intent to work with staff first. The Sub-Committee will not be writing or creating policy, rather their role will be to support policies and research issues. Some ideas have come forth. Meeting dates have not yet been identified. She announced that Will Neblett, San Diego Junior Theater Executive Director, will serve on this Sub-Committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

- Laurie Burgett drafted a Resolution to schedule a Special Balboa Park Committee Meeting to discuss and listen to the Zoo's proposal for the Park Boulevard Promenade. Community members feel that the Parking, Land Use and Circulation Study is important to the park. Multiple studies are in progress which could result in conflicting findings. The need to unify all parties is essential and a Special Meeting to initiate a dialog could serve this purpose. Members discussed the idea and the purpose.

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED, AND CARRIED TO SUPPORT THE SUGGESTION TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE MEETING TO ALLOW THE ZOO TO PRESENT THEIR REASONS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THEIR PROPOSAL WHILE THE JONES AND JONES STUDY IS IN PROGRESS. (RODRIGUEZ/TOM 5-0-2) RUCCI & SILVERMAN – ABSTENTION.

Due to Public Notice requirements the meeting cannot be scheduled sooner than May 12.

- Jeffery Tom stated that Caltrans is still working on the Quarterly Management Plan. They are willing to once again set up their boards prior to the June 5 meeting from 6:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. This information should be included in the Public Notice.

- Jeffrey Kirsch announced that effective May 5, the Central Balboa Park Assembly (CBPA) will serve as a forum for the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership (BPCP). CBPA was formerly known as the Central Balboa Park Association. Steven Mueller was recognized for his service as Chairperson. David Kinney, House of Hospitality Executive Director, will chair the CBPA meetings for the BPCP.
- Joe Silverman had requested a list of stakeholders from Jones and Jones more than sixty days ago. When he saw the raw list of approximately sixty-eight stakeholders, he noted that no representation from recreational interests was included. Working with Developed Regional Parks Division staff, a list of more than sixty groups were identified.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mazzella adjourned the meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting:

Thursday, June 5, 2003
6:30 P.M.
Balboa Park Club Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan America Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Behan
Staff Representative

KH/tbg

